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SCIENCE

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INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA¹

THE ceremonies of this hour mark not so much the coming of a man as the beginning of a new phase in the life of the university. In the sweep of time most men are merged in the on-going human tide. It is wise, therefore, to look beneath the formal and the personal; to ask what this occasion really means or what it ought to mean.

Of one thing there can be no doubt. This day sees the passing of a personal leadership, although happily not the waning of that personal influence. Not all mortals are destined to be engulfed in the nameless millions of mankind. A few outstanding men can not be forgotten. "An institution," said Emerson, "is but the lengthening shadow of one man." Minnesota, in this sense, will be the lengthening shadow of Cyrus Northrop. Such unity as the university has found is due almost wholly to the fusing power of his winning and guiding personality. The university stands a living tribute to the quick sympathy, humorous tolerance, harmonizing tact, alert intelligence and moral earnestness of its president emeritus. He had to convince an often skeptical outside public; he had to moderate and adjust keen rivalries within the institution. Colleges and departments sought their own ends with only a faint glimpse of the university as a whole. As he lays down the burden of twenty-seven years he leaves the institution firmly grounded in the good will of the people, and unified by the loyalty of faculty, alumni and students. We should

¹ From the *Minnesota Alumni Weekly*.